IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-71 (Canceled).

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a latent image carrier that is rotatable and ~~configured to carry~~ carries a latent image;

a cleaning blade that cleans toner remaining on a cleaning area on the latent image carrier; [[and]]

a lubricant;

a lubricant applying brush roller that scrapes off the lubricant and applies scrapped lubricant to the latent image carrier; and

a lubricant applying ~~element that is~~ blade arranged on a downstream side of an applying apparatus of the cleaning blade with respect to direction of rotation of the latent image carrier, and that applies a lubricant ~~to a lubricant applying area~~ on the latent image carrier,

wherein a lubricant applying area overlaps the cleaning area of the cleaning blade, and

wherein a width of the lubricant is less than a width of the brush roller and the width of the brush roller is less than a width of the lubricant applying blade in contact with the latent image carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof in the image forming apparatus ~~and the lubricant applying area overlap~~.

Claim 73 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the cleaning area and the lubricant applying area [[are]] have a substantially ~~a same area~~ equal size on the latent image carrier.

Claims 74-77 (Canceled).

Claim 78 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein

widths of a charged portion and a lubricant applied on the latent image carrier in [[its]] a longitudinal direction have a relation:

~~charge width ≤ width of lubricant applied~~ charge width < width of lubricant applied.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the latent image carrier has a frictional coefficient of 0.4 or less.

Claim 80 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the cleaning blade includes a side seal ~~for preventing~~ that prevents toner scattering, and the lubricant applying area can be adjusted based on a position of the side seal.

Claim 81 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is such that a shape factor [[SF-1]] indicating a degree of sphericity of a toner shape is in a range from 100 to 180, and [[that]] a shape factor [[SF-2]] indicating a degree of irregularities of the toner shape is in a range from 100 to 180.

Claim 82 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein ~~the toner is such that~~ a volume-average particle size (Dv) of the toner is in a range from 3 to 8 micrometers, and a degree of dispersion of the toner defined by a ratio (Dv/Dn) between the volume-average particle size (Dv) and a number-average particle size (Dn) is in a range from 1.00 to 1.40.

Claim 83 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein ~~the toner is such that~~ a ratio (r2/r1) between a minor axis (r2) and a major axis of the toner (r1) is in a range from 0.5 to 1.0, a ratio (r3/r2) between [[its]] a thickness of the toner (r3) and the minor axis of the toner (r2) is in a range from 0.7 to 1.0, and ~~a relation of major axis~~ r1 ≥ ~~minor axis~~ r2 ≥ ~~thickness~~ r3 ~~is satisfied~~.

Claim 84 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is obtained by allowing a toner material solution to undergo either one of or both of a crosslinking reaction and an elongation reaction in an aqueous medium, the toner material solution being obtained by dissolving or dispersing at least a polymer having a portion enabling reaction with a compound that contains an active hydrogen group, and a release agent in an organic solvent.

Claim 85 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, further comprising:

a process cartridge that integrally supports the latent image carrier and at least one ~~selected from~~ of a lubricant applying device which applies the lubricant to the latent image carrier, a charging device, a developing device, and a cleaning device, ~~and that is detachably~~ the process cartridge being mounted detachably from the image forming apparatus.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge ~~to be~~ coupled to an image forming apparatus, the process cartridge comprising:

an image carrier on which a latent image is formed; and

a process unit that includes at least one ~~selected from~~ of:

a cleaning device that cleans [[the]] a surface of the image carrier[[,]]; and

a lubricant applying device ~~that is~~ arranged on a downstream side of the cleaning device with respect to a direction of rotation of the image carrier, and that applies a lubricant to a lubricant applying area on the image carrier,

wherein [[the]] a cleaning area cleaned by the cleaning device and the lubricant applying area overlap, and

wherein the process cartridge integrally supports the image carrier and the process unit, and is detachable from the image forming apparatus.

Claim 87 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the lubricant applying blade applies the lubricant to a surface of an intermediate transfer belt.

Claim 88 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the lubricant includes zinc stearate.